A Story of Tommy Tucker

by Queen Holden

V 702

This Book is mine
and here's my name,
which I have signed
to prove my claim_
.....

Little Tommy Tucker,
Sings for his supper.
What does he eat?
White Bread and Butter.

A STORY of TOMMY TUCKER

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED
by QUEEN HOLDEN

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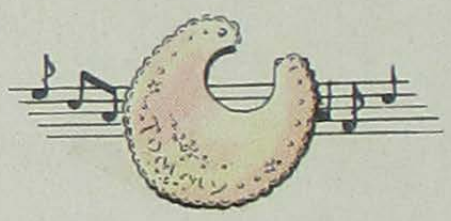

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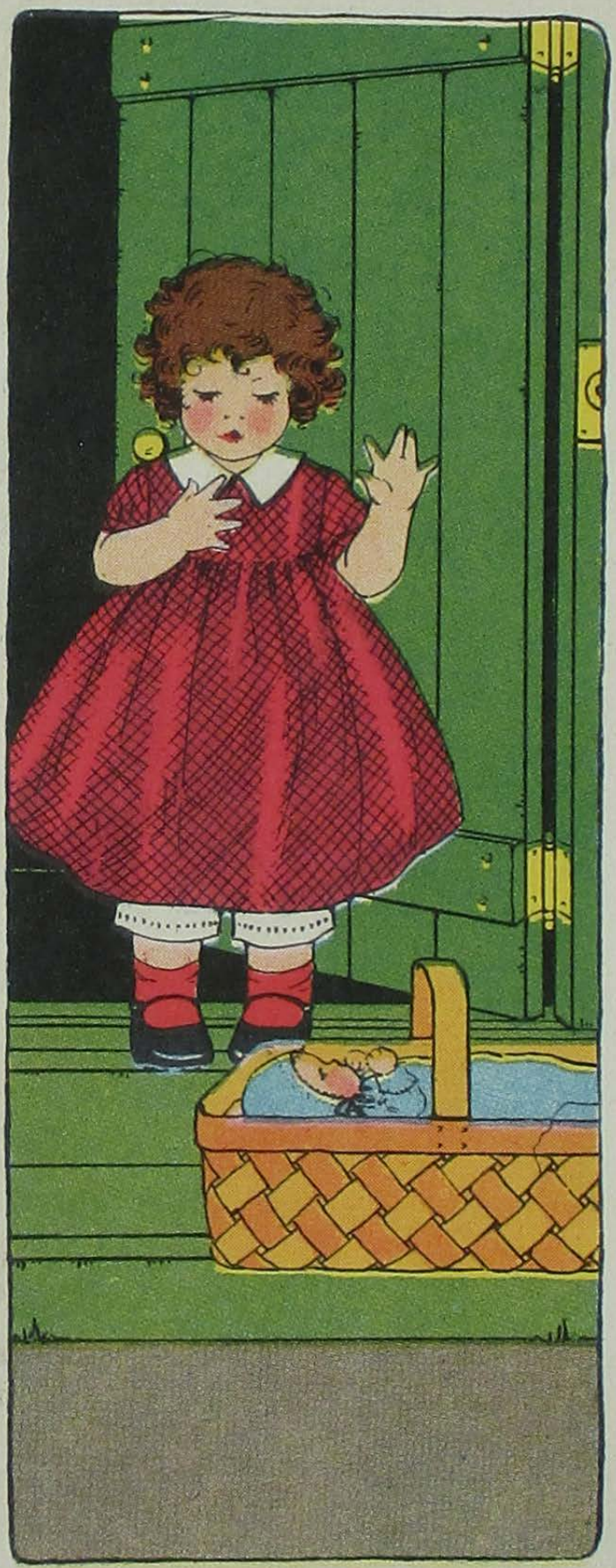
A Story of Tommy Tucker

"LITTLE Tommy Tucker sings for his supper."

Course you've all heard that! Did you ever wonder who "Tommy Tucker" is and why he sings for his supper?

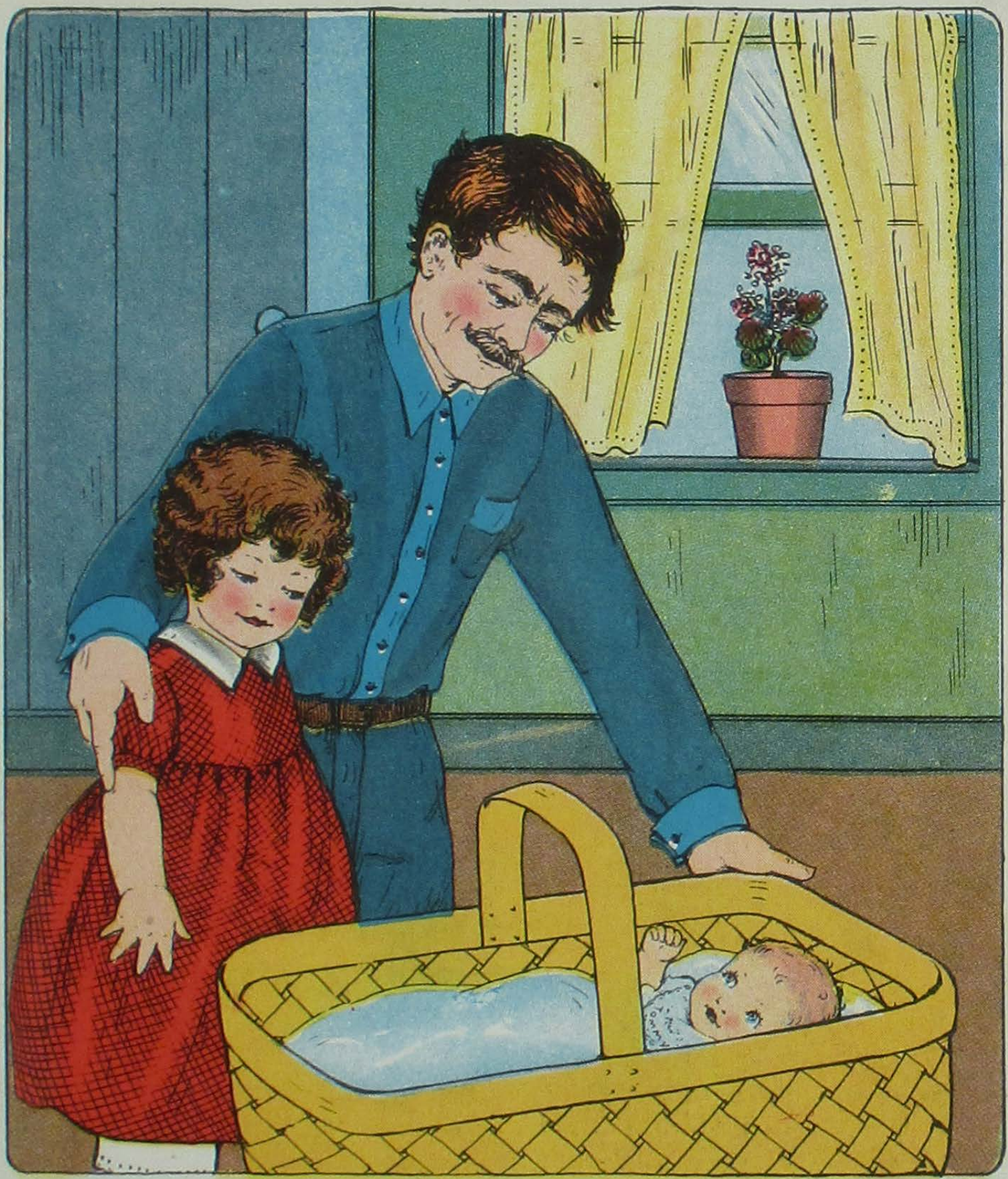
Well—I'm going to tell you a story—Little Tommy Tucker's mother and daddy were quite rich, and they lived in a big beautiful house on a big beautiful country place, and they had a nurse to take care of Tommy. When Tommy was just a tiny baby, he was stolen by a very bad man, who hoped he would get a lot of money from the baby's father. But, like most bad people, he was afraid he would get caught;



so instead of asking for money, or returning the baby, he left Tommy in a little basket on a doorstep far, far away from his home—in another town.

Tommy's poor Mother and Daddy cried and cried — they could never be happy again without their only baby. And poor little Tommy cried and cried too, but his grief was only that he was hungry, and his little feet were cold, and he didn't like being in a funny old basket. Tommy wasn't quite old enough to miss anyone!

It was on Tony's doorstep that the baby's basket was left. So it was Tony's little girl Gloria who opened the door and



They Decided to Keep the Baby

found Tommy! She was delighted, and when her father, the old Italian organ grinder, came home with his monkey Tito, she clapped her hands and said, "Daddy, God has sent me the little baby brother I've prayed for every night; and his name is *Tommy!* — It says so on his bib!—And Daddy, he has such *beautiful* clothes!"

Tony was a kind old man, and when nobody came for Tommy, he decided to keep the little fellow and let Gloria think he was her own little brother. They were very poor, but he liked to see his little girl happy. So "Tommy Tucker" became "Tommy, the organ grinder's little baby" and nobody knew that he wasn't.

"Daddy Tony" and Gloria took very good care of the baby and soon Tommy grew into a sturdy little boy. He was very beautiful, his hair was blonde and his eyes were a lovely blue. Gloria was beautiful too, but she had large brown eyes and very dark curly hair.

I mustn't forget to tell you about Tito, their little monkey. Tito was very much like a real person, he even danced! The only thing he couldn't do, was talk. He wore a little red suit with brass buttons and a funny little hat, which he would take off when he bowed. Tito had a million little tricks which Tony had taught him and he

would do them all for the people on the street. Then

he would take a little cup and gather up the money

and Tony would grind his organ and sing.

One day old Tony died, and Tommy and Gloria were left all alone with little Tito. For a while, after Tony had gone, a neighbor woman, Mrs. Grumpy, took care of the children. One day, Tommy and Gloria heard her husband say, "We are very poor, we cannot keep other people's children, unless they can give us some money—What are we to do but to send them away?"

The thought of going away made the children afraid and very unhappy—

"We must earn some money, Tommy," said Gloria, "so we can stay here—what shall we do?"

"I can sing!" said Tommy. "Dear Daddy Tony taught me all of his songs!"

"I can grind the organ," said Gloria, hopefully.

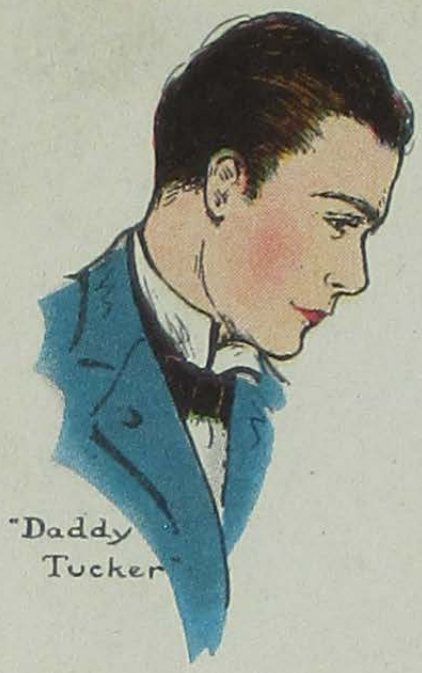
"And Tito will collect the money with his little cup just as he always did," added Tommy.

"Let's try," they said—and they did.

So Gloria played the organ, Tommy sang and the monkey collected the money—and what a *lot* of money! People stopped to look at the beautiful children, and to listen to their music; and because they *all* gave them money, Gloria and Tommy were able to stay with the woman, and have a lovely supper at the end of each day!

They missed Daddy Tony, and they wished that they had a mother, but in spite of that, they were very happy. Tommy could sing all day without getting tired, because his heart was singing too! And Gloria loved to listen to him, his voice was so sweet and his songs were

"What shall we do?


"Daddy Tucker"

dear Daddy Tony's own songs.

Mr. and Mrs. Tucker, Tommy's real mother and daddy, had been very unhappy all these years and had traveled everywhere, hoping to find their little boy.

One day they saw Gloria and Tommy and the little monkey Tito. They loved all children; so they stopped to enjoy these—most everyone stopped to see Tommy and Gloria and cunning little Tito!

"What lovely children," they exclaimed. "And what a sweet voice the little fellow has.—Isn't he a dear little boy!"

Mrs. Tucker was sad—her little boy would have been just about as big as this one! How she wished she could hold her *own* little Tommy in her arms, and hear his little voice. She never thought this little boy *could* be hers, but because she hoped against hope, that some day she would find him, she went over to Tommy and began to talk to him.

"What is your name, little boy?" she asked.

"Tommy!" he said. "And this is my sister Gloria!"

"What Is Your Name, Little Boy?"

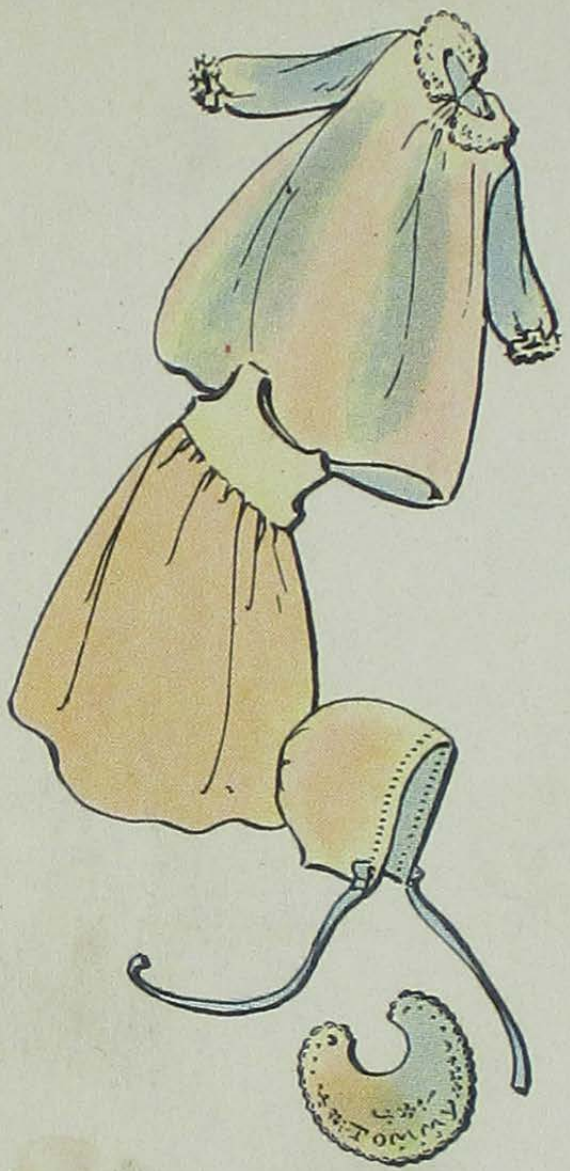
Then Gloria told them how God had left Tommy on her doorstep. She told them too that they had no mother, and no daddy either, "cause Daddy Tony had died!"

"There's just us!" she said—"Tommy, Tito and me!"

"How would you like to come to live with us?" asked Mr. Tucker. "Let us be your new mother and daddy. We haven't any little children, and we would like to have you!"

Tommy's eyes widened — This beautiful lady would be his mother! — He had often dreamed of having such a mother! Tommy was so happy, he danced all over the place, but Gloria just smiled, in her shy little way, and said, "Thank you — we've wished *so long* for a mother, and we'd like to have a new daddy, too."

So Mr. and Mrs. Tucker went to Mrs. Grumpy's house with the children and told her that they wanted to adopt Tommy and Gloria. Mrs. Grumpy was *sorry* to see the children go, because the money they had given her had helped to buy lots of nice little things, but she was *glad* too, I guess, that the children would not have to go out any more to earn money and would have a

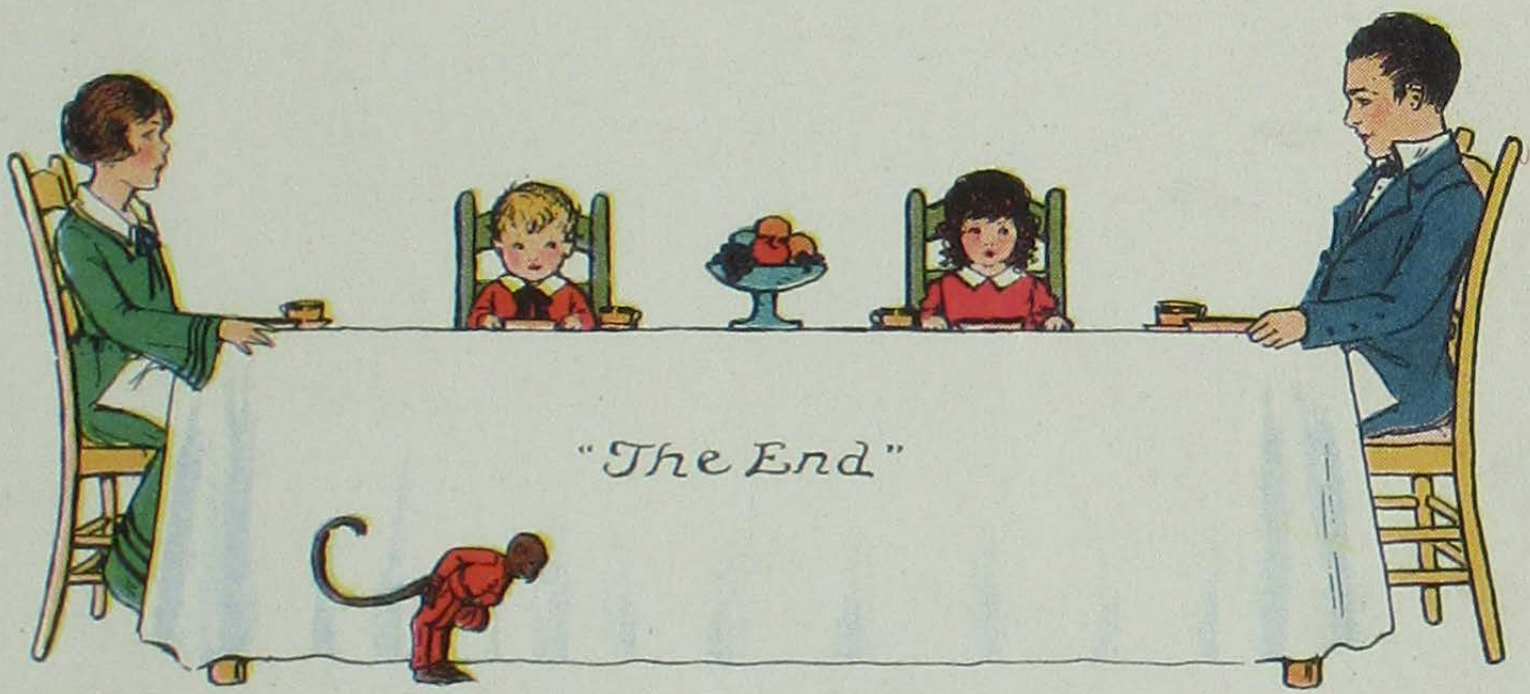


nice mother and daddy to take care of them.

Gloria had carefully saved all of Tommy's little clothes and proudly showed them to Mrs. Tucker. She was *specially* proud of the bib with "Tommy" embroidered on it. "You see, God—dressed him up so beautifully for us," she said.

The little girl didn't understand why Mrs. Tucker cried when she saw Tommy's baby clothes and she didn't ask, because Mrs. Tucker took Tommy into her arms and smiled her tears away before Gloria was able to ask any questions.

I won't have to tell you how happy the Tuckers were to have found their own little Tommy. All I need say is the *four* Tuckers and Tito, lived happily ever after, and now Tommy always sings before supper just because he is so happy and grateful!


"The End"